



Commonwealth of Kentucky Labor Cabinet

1047 US 127 SOUTH
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601-1975

Steven L. Beshear, Governor

Larry L. Roberts, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Daniel Lowry
502.564.3219
502.545.9089



Owensboro Municipal Utilities Earns Governor's Safety and Health Award

Elmer Smith Station employees work more than 277,000 hours without a lost-time incident

OWENSBORO, Ky. (May 29, 2014) – Secretary Larry L. Roberts of the Kentucky Labor Cabinet honored the employees of Elmer Smith Station of Owensboro Municipal Utilities (OMU) with the Governor's Safety and Health Award. The achievement recognizes the power plant's 277,293 hours without a lost-time accident or illness.

"Owensboro Municipal Utilities and the employees at Elmer Smith Station deserve a tremendous amount of recognition for their commitment to safety," said Secretary Roberts. "OMU has an acronym, STEP, which stands for *safety takes every person*, and that motto underscores how every part of the organization is involved in the process from top to bottom."

OMU is the largest municipal electric and water system in Kentucky, with more than 26,000 electric and 24,000 water customers. With a total of about 250 employees, OMU is organized into three operating divisions: Delivery, Production and the Customer Service Center.

“Our commitment to safety is best seen in our employees and their dedication to working safely,” said Director of Production Kevin Frizzell. “We are proud to have earned this honor.”

OMU’s Elmer Smith plant has about 100 employees and is a coal-burning facility consisting of two power units with a combined capacity of 425 megawatts. The facility burns approximately 1.2 million tons of coal per year.

The Kentucky Labor Cabinet presents the Governor’s Safety and Health Award in recognition of outstanding safety and health performance. An establishment may qualify for the award if its employees together achieve a required number of hours worked without experiencing a lost-time injury or illness. The required number of hours is dependent upon the number of employees. In the case of Elmer Smith Station, the requirement is 250,000.

Every establishment within the geographical boundaries of Kentucky is eligible, even if the establishment won the award the previous year. Eligibility is limited to one award during a 12-month period of time.

The award is a certificate mounted on a wooden plaque. The certificate contains the signatures of Kentucky Gov. Beshear, Secretary Roberts and Department of Workplace Standards Commissioner Anthony Russell.

The Governor’s Safety and Health Award program is part of Gov. Steve Beshear’s efforts to improve the health of all Kentuckians. The Governor launched [kyhealthnow](#) in February as an aggressive and wide-ranging initiative to significantly reduce incidents and deaths from Kentucky’s dismal health rankings and habits. It builds on Kentucky’s successful implementation of health care reform and uses multiple strategies over the next several years to improve the state’s collective health.

For more on the Governor’s Safety and Health Award, and for a list of past winners, click [here](#).

For more on Owensboro Municipal Utilities, visit www.omu.org.

#

The Kentucky Labor Cabinet’s primary responsibility is to ensure that divisions and offices falling under the auspices of the Cabinet work within the jurisdiction of Kentucky labor law to ensure equitable and fair treatment of the Commonwealth’s more than 1.9 million wage-earning employees. For more information, visit www.labor.ky.gov/.

